



Isaac Galland—Mormon Benefactor

Lyndon W. Cook

Of the scores of converts to Mormonism who failed to remain true to their newly found faith, few are so interesting and colorful as Isaac Galland. Because many of those who have had a hand in preserving his biography seem to have enhanced their sources by making him either more or less respectable, according to their personal bias, Isaac Galland still remains an enigma today. This article will present major points of interest in Isaac Galland's life, giving special consideration to his Mormon-related activities.

Isaac Galland, son of Matthew and Hannah Fenno Galland, was born 15 May 1791 in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.¹ At the

Lyndon W. Cook, a research historian, teaches part time for the College of Religious Instruction at Brigham Young University. The writer is indebted to C. Michael Hansen, honors student at BYU, for assisting in the initial research of this article.

¹1850 Federal Census of Iowa and grave marker, City Cemetery, Ft. Madison, Iowa. Isaac Galland's birthdate and place are variously given as 1790 and 1792 at either Marietta or Chillicothe, Ohio. (See *Portrait and Biographical Album of Lee County, Iowa* [Chicago: Chapman Brothers, 1887], p. 588, and William J. Peterson, "Historical Introduction" to an 1850 reprint of I. Galland, *Galland's Iowa Emigrant—Containing a Map and General Description of Iowa Territory* [Chillicothe, Ohio: William C. Jones, 1840].)

time of his birth, his parents were en route from Norfolk, Virginia, to Marietta, Ohio, a frontier settlement on the Ohio River.² Because of the primitive nature of the frontier and the constant danger of Indian depredations, Isaac's early life, spent in the Old Northwest,³ was undoubtedly one of excitement and adventure. It may be that his interest in and concern for the Indian was cultivated in Ohio. At the age of thirteen, he entered William and Mary College, where he studied theology.⁴

About 1810 Isaac and some of his compatriots journeyed to the Spanish Southwest in search of gold and adventure. Galland's party was arrested and jailed for a year in Santa Fe on charges of plotting against the Mexican government.⁵

Isaac Galland returned to Ohio where he married Nancy Harris on 22 March 1811, in Madison County, Ohio.⁶ By 1816, he had married again, this time to Margaret Knight,⁷ and had settled in Washington County, Indiana.⁸ In 1820 he was listed on the Federal Census as a resident of Owen County, Indiana.⁹

It was in Indiana that Isaac Galland first began his study and practice of medicine.¹⁰ With apparently only some book learning he entered a profession to which he often gave only passing attention, but which earned him the title of "Doctor." While this title was probably more a status symbol than a recognition of his medical expertise, it nevertheless followed him the rest of his life and tended to distinguish him as a gentleman.

²*Portrait and Biographical Album*, p. 588. Marietta, Washington County, Ohio, settled in 1788 by members of the Ohio Land Company, was for a time the sole authorized American community in the Old Northwest. (See Eugene H. Rosenboom and Francis P. Weisenburger, *A History of Ohio* [Columbus: The Ohio Historical Society, 1973], p. 55.) Matthew Galland, Isaac's father, is listed on the 1801 and 1803 Ohio Census for Washington County.

³Peterson, "Historical Introduction," p. 1.

⁴Virginia Wilcox Ivins, *Yesterdays—Reminiscences of Long Ago* (Keokuk, Iowa: n.p., 1924), p. 5. Virginia Ivins was Galland's niece. Correspondence with William and Mary College failed to establish that Isaac Galland was a student of that institution, but since there were several severe fires on that campus during the mid-1800s, it does not eliminate the possibility (see letter of Kay J. Domine, William and Mary College archivist, to Lyndon W. Cook, 7 April 1978).

⁵Peterson, "Historical Introduction," p. 1.

⁶Madison County, Ohio, Marriage Records, Book A, p. 3. Copy in possession of writer. It is uncertain what happened to this marriage. See writ of ejectment, *Elizabeth Galland vs. Lewis Bidamon*, Hancock Circuit Court May 1860, Dedimus and Interrogatories located at the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Library-Archives, The Auditorium, Independence, Missouri. Hereafter cited as RLDS Auditorium Archives.

⁷"Edgar County Order Book," November 1825, p. 22. My thanks to Ms. A. Joyce Brown of Brorton, Illinois, for finding this reference. Galland's Family Group Sheet indicates that this marriage ended in divorce.

⁸Knox County, Indiana, Land Records. An indenture between Isaac Galland and Samuel Alexander, dated 10 January 1816, indicates that Isaac Galland was a resident of Washington County. By 1816 Isaac Galland owned 101 lots in the town of Liverpool, Washington County, Indiana.

⁹Listed in the Galland home, in addition to Isaac Galland, were one female between 16-25 and five children under 16.

¹⁰See *Daily Democrat* (Keokuk, Iowa), 6 June 1885.

Shortly after 1820, Isaac Galland moved to Edgar County, Illinois, where he is said to have associated with the "Massac gang" of outlaws, with whom he engaged in horse-stealing and counterfeiting.¹¹

In 1824 Isaac left his wife Margaret, in Edgar County, and settled in Horselick Grove, Illinois,¹² which geographically fell within Hancock County at its creation the following year.¹³ On 5 October 1826, without finalizing his divorce from Margaret Knight, Isaac married his third wife, Hannah Kinney,¹⁴ and in 1827 took his family to Oquawka, Henderson County, Illinois, where he built the first cabin and established a trading post.¹⁵ A son, Washington, was born at Oquawka on 20 July 1827.¹⁶

In 1829 Isaac and his family crossed the Mississippi River into what would later become Lee County, Iowa, and established the town of Nashville, located three miles below Montrose.¹⁷ At Nashville, he established another trading post,¹⁸ began practicing medicine,¹⁹ and started the first school in the Territory of Iowa, in 1830.²⁰ His daughter Eleanor, born 3 January 1830, was the second

¹¹Thomas Ford, *History of Illinois* (Chicago: S. C. Griggs and Company, 1854), p. 406. While almost every biographical sketch on Isaac Galland mentions his association with this group of outlaws, Edgar County historians have no knowledge of a so-called "Massac gang" (see letter of A. Joyce Brown to Lyndon W. Cook, 11 April 1978).

¹²The "Edgar County Order Book," a record of ecclesiastical court proceedings, for the years 1825, 1826, 1827, shows an attempt by Margaret Galland and her attorney to secure a divorce from Isaac Galland. In October 1827, the "council made a motion that this case be dismissed at her [Margaret Galland's] own proper cost." (See pp. 22, 39, 49, 65, and 93.)

¹³*History of Hancock County, Illinois—Illinois Sesquicentennial Edition* (Carthage: Journal Printing Company, 1968), p. 50. Horselick Grove later became known as Fountain Green.

¹⁴See fn. 12. See also Family Group Sheet. Washington Galland (Isaac's son) indicated that his maternal grandfather was Peter Kinney. (See "Address of Capt. Washington Galland at the Lee County Old Settlers Reunion," Ft. Madison, Iowa, no date. Copy located at Lee County Historical Society, Keokuk, Iowa.)

¹⁵See *History of Hancock County, Illinois*, p. 50. Oquawka was also known as Yellow Banks (see Elizabeth Smith, "Oquawka Celebrates Its One Hundredth Anniversary of First White Settlement," *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* 21 [1928]:160).

¹⁶*Biographical Review of Lee County, Iowa* (Chicago: Hobart Publishing Company, 1905), p. 235. Washington Galland became a prominent lawyer in Lee County.

¹⁷William J. Peterson, "Pioneer Doctors and Druggists," *The Palimpsest* 50 (1969):311-12. This settlement first known as "Ahwipetuck," was later called "Nashville," and finally named "Galland" in honor of Isaac Galland (see J. A. Swisher, "The Half-Breed Tract," *The Palimpsest* 14 [February 1933]:71-72). "Nashville" was current in 1841 and is used in the Doctrine and Covenants, section 126. (Doctrine and Covenants [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1921]; hereafter cited as D&C.)

¹⁸*Biographical Review*, p. 235.

¹⁹Peterson, "Pioneer Doctors and Druggists," pp. 311-12. While one writer claimed that no pioneer physician "paid so little attention to their profession as did Dr. Isaac Galland," another affirmed that Galland saved the life of his grandfather, who was suffering from a severe attack of cholera (see Charles W. Cruikshank, "The Making of a Pioneer," *The Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 45 [July 1947]:295).

²⁰H. C. Cook, "The Administrative Functions of the Department of Public Instruction," *The Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 27 (April 1929):245; Swisher, "The Half-Breed Tract," p. 72.

white child born in Iowa Territory and the first white child born in Lee County.²¹

The Black Hawk War of 1832 forced Isaac Galland to take his family to safety at Fort Edwards, now the site of Warsaw, Illinois. At Fort Edwards, he joined the military and was given the rank of colonel.²² On 17 March 1831, Isaac Galland's wife Hannah died.²³ Two years later, on 25 April 1833, he married Elizabeth Wilcox, sister of Major John R. Wilcox, the commanding officer of Fort Edwards.²⁴

After unsuccessfully running for the Iowa State Legislature in 1834,²⁵ Isaac Galland began his notorious career of land speculation in Iowa. Much of Galland's land dealings involved the Half-Breed Tract, a 119,000-acre parcel of land lying between the Des Moines and Mississippi rivers in the southeast corner of Iowa, which had been set aside as a reservation for half-breed Sac and Fox Indians.²⁶ Despite the questionable legality of land transactions in the Half-Breed Tract, the area was soon flooded with settlers and land speculators. In 1836, the New York Land Company,

²¹Ruth A. Gallaher, "The First Hundred Years," *The Iowa Journal of History and Politics* 31 (October 1933):531.

²²*Biographical Review*, p. 236. Washington Galland claimed that Chief Black Hawk entertained a friendly regard for Doctor Galland and sent "a couple of squaws, in a canoe from the Rock River village, to warn my father of the expected outbreak; and advising him to cross over to the east side of the river and to some place of safety for himself and family (see "Address of Capt. Washington Galland at the Lee County Old Settlers Reunion").

²³*The Keokuk Constitution-Democrat*, 29 September 1906. Microfilm copy in Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah. Also see *Portrait and Biographical Album*, p. 591.

²⁴Hancock County, Illinois, Marriage Records, Book 1829-1849, p. 3. Elizabeth Wilcox Galland died 13 August 1866 (see grave marker, City Cemetery, Ft. Madison, Iowa).

²⁵See Thomas Ford, *History of Illinois*, p. 406. Isaac Galland ran in a district composed of Hancock, Adams, and Pike counties. Thomas Ford indicates that Isaac Galland was "no pretender of integrity" and freely admitted his lawless past in public speeches.

²⁶Congress in August 1824 had reserved this tract of land by treaty for the use of the mixed-bloods of the Sac and Fox Indian tribes. The United States maintained a revisionary interest in the land, and under the terms of the treaty the half-breeds could not legally sell or convey the land. In the fall of 1833 a group of half-breeds met in Keokuk and prepared a petition to Congress, requesting the passage of an act giving them right to sell the land. Pursuant to this petition, Congress passed an act dated 30 June 1834, which relinquished the federal government's revisionary interest in the Half-Breed Tract and gave the half-breeds the lands in fee simple. (See *United States Statutes at Large* [Boston: Little, Brown, & Co., 1856], vol. 4, Statute I, 30 June 1834, chap. CLXVII, p. 740.) Congress failed to specify who the individual owners were, however. Originally 40 claims were made for ownership, later the number reached 100, and finally 160. (See I. Galland, *Claimants of the Sac and Fox Half Breed Reservation*. Copy in Iowa State Historical Society.) To rectify this mistake, the Wisconsin Legislature, in 1838, required all claimants to file claims with the District Court of Lee County within one year, showing how title was obtained. Three commissioners were to take testimony regarding said titles. In the meantime, the Territory of Iowa was created, and the first session of the territorial legislature repealed the Wisconsin act. This action complicated the problem, and suits were subsequently filed in the territorial courts, resulting in the sale of the entire tract of 119,000 acres to Hugh T. Reid for \$5,773.32. Reid, who received a deed executed by the sheriff of Lee County, subsequently sold several small tracts, but his title was obviously in question and became involved in litigation. This matter came before the second session of the territorial legislature,

later to merge with the St. Louis Land Company, made extensive land purchases in the reservation. Isaac Galland was one of five trustees for the New York Land Company.²⁷ He also purchased large tracts of land in his own name, both in the Half-Breed Reservation and in Commerce, Hancock County, Illinois.²⁸ Dr. Galland, who at one time was appointed special land commissioner for Hancock County, also platted the original town of Keokuk in 1837.²⁹

This same year, the ubiquitous Dr. Galland began a literary career which was of some note.³⁰

but nothing concrete occurred until 1841 in *Spaulding v. Antaya* (U.S. District Court of Iowa Territory) which requested partition of the entire tract. A decree for partition was issued and commissioners were appointed to divide the 119,000 acres into 101 tracts of equal value. This was done and confirmed by the courts in October 1841. This judgment of partition was sustained in a number of appeals to the Iowa Supreme Court, but the sheriff's sale to Hugh T. Reid still formed a cloud on that title. In *Webster v. Reid*, in District Court of Iowa in January 1846, it was decided that Hugh T. Reid was the owner in fee simple of the land in question. An appeal was taken to the United States Supreme Court, and in 1850 the high court reversed *Webster v. Reid*. This action set aside the sheriff's sale to Reid and sustained the judgment of partition (i.e., 101 shares). (See Nelson C. Roberts and Samuel W. Moorehead, *History of Lee County, Iowa* [Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1914], pp. 55-59.) Lawyers for the various land companies quit-claimed their interests in these lands for a reasonable consideration; the matter was finally settled. (See B. L. Wick, "The Struggle for the Half-Breed Tract," *Annals of Iowa* 7 [April 1905]:16-29.)

²⁷David W. Kilbourne, *Strictures on Dr. I. Galland's Pamphlet, Entitled "Villainy Exposed," with Some Account of His Transactions in Lands in the Sac and Fox Reservations, etc., in Lee County, Iowa* (Ft. Madison, Iowa: The Statesman Office, 1850), p. 8. The other trustees were Joshua Aiken, Samuel Marsh, William E. Lee, and Edward C. Delavan.

²⁸Galland appears as a grantee in Hancock County as early as 1836 and in Lee County by 1837.

²⁹William J. Peterson, "The Times in Review," *The Palimpsest* 17 (March 1936):111.

³⁰Among Isaac Galland's numerous titles, that of writer and publisher deserves some attention. On 20 June 1837, an agreement between Dr. Galland and Thomas Gregg (1808-1892, and author of *Prophet of Palmyra*) for the consideration of \$1000, named Thomas Gregg editor of two newspapers (four issues of which were to be published within one year at Ft. Des Moines) at a printing office "about to be established by said Galland." The titles of these papers were *The Western Adventurer* and *The Western Emigrant's Magazine*. (A copy of the articles of agreement are located at The State Historical Society of Iowa.) The first issue of the *Western Adventurer* appeared on 28 June 1837 and, according to its prospectus, was to be devoted to "history, geography, mineralogy, geology, climate, soil, production, farming, commerce, mechanics, education, improvements, and Indian traditions and remains of the West." In the columns of the *Western Adventurer*, Isaac Galland proposed a monthly publication to be entitled *Chronicles of the North American Savages*. It is not known if any issues were printed of this proposed paper. The *Iowa News* announced to its readers on 9 September 1837 that *The Western Emigrant and Historian of Times in the West* was the title of a sixteen-page monthly periodical to be published at Montrose. This periodical was to be devoted to "the interests of the emigrant, and contains many selections of incidents in the West, as well as geographical descriptions" (see *The Palimpsest*, 20 [March 1939]:70). In 1840, *Galland's Iowa Emigrant: Containing a Map and General Description of Iowa Territory* was published by William C. Jones in Chillicothe, Ohio. This extremely rare guidebook described the topography of Iowa, the character of the population, the animal life, and it gave a list of civil and executive officers of Iowa Territory. One writer noted that this guide contained "much information that was new and useful, and it must have influenced many emigrants" toward Iowa. (See Peterson, "Historical Introduction," pp. 3-4.) In 1847, Dr. Galland published a few issues of *The Iowa Advocate and Half-Breed Journal*. This paper dedicated its lines to the history and litigation of the Half-Breed Tract. The prospectus noted that "a portion of its columns [would be devoted] to the dissemination of facts connected with the past history, present condition and future prospects of the entire county of Lee, in the new state of Iowa." In addition to the above, Dr. Galland also wrote a series of articles on Indian lore which were published posthumously in 1869 in *Annals of Iowa*.



Travels of Isaac Galland.

By the winter of 1838-1839, Isaac Galland had settled in Commerce and was living in a large stone house which he had purchased from James White.³¹ It is doubtful that Isaac Galland had any idea that this swampy, mosquito-infested peninsula on the Mississippi River would soon become one of the largest cities in the state.³²

Isaac Galland's association with the Mormons began in October or November of 1838 when he met Israel Barlow, who with other Mormons had fled northeastward towards Quincy, Illinois, from Far West, Missouri, but, by missing their way, had arrived at the Des Moines River in Iowa. They observed the abandoned barracks of old Fort Des Moines near what is now Montrose and were informed that Isaac Galland held extensive claims to this area known as the Half-Breed Tract. Israel Barlow and his associates talked with Dr. Galland, who, after hearing of the Mormons' difficulties in Missouri, began negotiations with these destitute Mormons to sell them his lands and buildings in Commerce as well as in the Half-Breed Tract.

Not authorized to make purchases for the Church, Elder Barlow directed his course downstream to Quincy. After an exploring party had been sent to examine Galland's lands, Church leaders convened in Quincy to discuss the propriety of settling in Commerce and in Lee County, Iowa. William Marks presided at this meeting where Isaac Galland's liberal offer was presented. Dr. Galland had agreed to sell "about twenty thousand acres, lying between the Mississippi and Des Moines rivers, at two dollars per acre, to be paid in twenty annual installments, without interest."³³

While some were in favor of gathering to Commerce, Illinois, and Lee County, Iowa, others were suggesting that the membership of the Church should scatter among the various counties in Illinois and elsewhere. Although the citizens of Quincy had received the homeless Mormons with open arms, it was still not known how the executives of the State of Illinois and the Territory of Iowa would receive the entire Mormon population. Before

³¹See David E. and Della S. Miller, *Nauvoo: City of Joseph* (Santa Barbara: Peregrine Smith, Inc., 1974), pp. 236-41.

³²"Real estate speculation and promotional schemes had been rife in the region a full decade before the Mormon era. (If some of the speculators did not honestly expect to develop the area into a thriving community, they certainly hoped to be able to sell their holdings to some person or organization at a profit.)" Ibid., p. 239.

³³Joseph Smith, Jun., *History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, ed. B. H. Roberts, 2nd ed. rev., 7 vols. (Salt Lake City: Deseret News, 1932-1951), 3:260. Hereafter referred to as *HC*.

large tracts of land could be purchased in Commerce or Lee County, Mormon leaders needed to know the sentiments of political authorities. The decision of the meeting was that no purchases would be made until further deliberation could be had.³⁴

Dr. Galland, apparently eager to insure a transaction with the Mormons on the one hand and to satisfy Mormon fears on the other, corresponded with two of his acquaintances, Attorney General Isaac Van Allen and Governor Robert Lucas of Iowa Territory. In the letter to Governor Lucas, dated 25 February 1839, Dr. Galland wrote:

I will come to the issue at once, and ask, on behalf of these much injured people, your permission that they may purchase lands, and settle thereon, in the Territory of Iowa, and there to worship *Almighty God*, according to the dictates of their own consciences, secure from the robber's grasp, the ruffian's gun, and the midnight assassin's knife.³⁵

Governor Lucas responded favorably, assuring Dr. Galland that the Territory of Iowa would "extend equal privileges and protection to all." He added that "their religious opinions I consider have nothing to do with our political transactions."³⁶

On 12 April 1839, Isaac Galland began promoting the Mormon cause by sending Governor Lucas' letter to the *Quincy Argus* for publication. He informed the *Argus*:

The testimony of Governor Lucas as to the good moral character of these people, I think will have its deserved influence upon the people of Illinois, in encouraging our citizens in their humane and benevolent exertions to relieve this distressed people, who are now wandering in our neighborhoods without comfortable food, raiment, or shelter from the pelting storm.³⁷

Sidney Rigdon, Elias Higbee, Edward Partridge, and Israel Barlow visited Commerce and the Half-Breed lands some time around 20 February 1839 to get a firsthand view but failed to contact Dr. Galland.³⁸

In a letter to David W. Rogers, dated 26 February 1839, Isaac Galland sought to arrange a meeting with Sidney Rigdon and Edward Partridge and requested Mormon leaders keep in commu-

³⁴Ibid.

³⁵Galland's letter to Governor Robert Lucas is located at Iowa State Historical Society.

³⁶HC, 3:317-18.

³⁷*Quincy Argus*, 12 April 1839.

³⁸See Edward Partridge to Joseph Smith, et. al., 5 March 1839, in HC, 3:272; see also HC, 3:267.

nication with him regarding his land proposal. The tone of the letter seems to manifest an interest in the Mormon religion.

I wish to serve your cause in any matter which Providence may afford me the opportunity of doing, and I therefore request that you feel no hesitancy or reluctance in communicating to me your wishes, at all times and on any subject. . . . The little knowledge which I have as yet of the doctrine, order or practice of the Church, leaves me under the necessity of acting in all this matter as a stranger, though, as I sincerely hope, as a friend, for such, I assure you I feel myself to be, both toward you collectively, as a people, and individually as sufferers.³⁹

Late in February 1839, Church leaders in Quincy again met to decide a course of action. Still unable to come to a decision at this conference, the leaders determined to seek counsel from the Prophet Joseph Smith, who at this time was a prisoner in Liberty Jail in Missouri.⁴⁰

In the meantime, however, Joseph Smith had learned of Galland's offer and had written favorably of it to Bishop Partridge. David W. Rogers, a messenger sent from Quincy to Liberty on 10 March 1839, carried letters to Joseph Smith from Edward Partridge and from Isaac Galland, as well as the Barlow letter which contained Galland's offer. Bishop Partridge's letter stated in part:

Brothers Rigdon, Higbee and myself are of the opinion that it is not wisdom to make a trade with the doctor at present. . . . Your letter respecting the trade with Galland was not received here until after the return from his residence. . . . If Brother Ridgon were not here, we might, after receiving your letter, come to a different conclusion respecting that trade.⁴¹

After meeting with David W. Rogers, the Prophet was evidently convinced that Galland's offer should be taken, possibly because of Isaac Galland's alleged friendship with Attorney General Van Allen and his assurance that Governor Lucas would welcome the Mormons. In any event, Joseph Smith quickly communicated with Isaac Galland by letter the Prophet's intention to purchase Galland's lands. The Prophet wrote:

I feel highly gratified to learn of a man who had sympathy, and feelings of friendship toward a suffering, and an injured, and an innocent people; if you can do them any good, render them any assistance, or protection, in the name of suffering humanity, we beseech

³⁹Galland to Rogers cited in *HC*, 3:265-67.

⁴⁰See Miller and Miller, *Nauvoo: City of Joseph*, p. 23.

⁴¹*HC*, 3:272-73.

you, for God's sake, and [sic] humanity's sake, that you will do it. . . . N. B. If Bishop Partridge, or if the church have not made a purchase of your land, and if there is not any one who feels a particular interest in making the purchase you will hold it in reserve for us; we will purchase it of you at the proposals that you made to Mr. Barlow. We think the church would be wise in making the contract. Therefore, if it is not made before we are liberated, we will make it.⁴²

It was three days later, 25 March 1839, that Joseph Smith dictated his famous epistle to the Saints, portions of which are now contained in the *Doctrine and Covenants*.⁴³ The letter included the following counsel concerning Isaac Galland:

It still seems to bear heavily on our minds that the Church would do well to secure to themselves the contract of the land which is proposed to them by Mr. Isaac Galland, and to cultivate the friendly feelings of that gentleman, inasmuch as he shall prove himself to be a man of honor and a friend to humanity. . . . We really think that Mr. Galland's letter breathes that kind of a spirit.⁴⁴

Joseph Smith escaped from Missouri law enforcement officers on 16 April 1839 and arrived in Quincy on 22 April. At a council meeting held 24 April 1839, it was resolved that "President Joseph Smith, Jun., Bishop Knight, and Brother Alanson Ripley, visit Iowa Territory immediately, for the purpose of making a location for the Church."⁴⁵

Within a week the Prophet and others met with Dr. Galland to see his properties in Commerce and in Lee County. On 30 April 1839, Isaac Galland sold the Mormons three parcels of land in Commerce, Illinois: the fractional SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 2, 6N, 9W (47.17 acres, a house, ferry rights, and hotel privileges);⁴⁶ the fractional NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 2, 7N, 8W; and the fractional SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 19, 6N, 8W, containing 12.20 acres. The purchase price

⁴²*Times and Seasons* 1 (February 1839):51-56.

⁴³HC, 3:289-305. Selected portions are found in D&C, sections 121, 122, and 123.

⁴⁴HC, 3:298.

⁴⁵HC, 3:336.

⁴⁶Robert Flanders (in *Nauvoo—Kingdom on the Mississippi* [Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1965], p. 35) has confused this land transaction. Flanders notes that George W. Robinson had taken an option on the 47.17 acres, the house, ferry rights, and hotel rights on 3 April 1839, for \$18,000. This is inaccurate with regard to the option as well as the date. The correct date of the document referred to by Flanders (Deed Book G, p. 247) is 30 April 1839, not 3 April 1839, and it is not an option to buy the property in question but is, in fact, the land transaction mentioned above and in HC, 3:342. The *History of the Church* states that the purchase price was \$9,000. This price (\$9,000) may have been the price of the 47.17 acres only (excluding the 12.20 acres), or it is an error. The land record (Deed Book G, p. 247) states the total price was \$18,000 and gives no indication what the breakdown was for each parcel of land.

for these properties was \$18,000.⁴⁷ This land was deeded to George W. Robinson rather than to Alanson Ripley (a Church land agent) because Sidney Rigdon insisted that "no committee should control any property which he had anything to do with."⁴⁸ It was understood that Elder Robinson, Sidney Rigdon's son-in-law, would deed over the land to the Church when it had been paid for.⁴⁹

Whereas one source suggests an earlier date,⁵⁰ Lee County, Iowa, land records indicate that on 29 May and 26 June 1839 Isaac and Elizabeth Galland sold large tracts of land in the Half-Breed Tract to Church agents Oliver Granger and Vinson Knight. The *History of the Church* records that on 24 June 1839 "the Church purchased the town of Nashville, in Lee County, Iowa Territory, together with twenty thousand acres of land adjoining it."⁵¹ Land records fail to confirm this date (24 June 1839). The reference to the above purchase is obviously the 26 June 1839 purchase, but the properties do not total 20,000 acres. The composite of the two purchases on 29 May and 26 June 1839, however, do approximate the 20,000 acres mentioned in *History of the Church*.

PROPERTIES PURCHASED FROM GALLAND AND HIS WIFE BY OLIVER GRANGER AND VINSON KNIGHT:

1. Grantor: Isaac and Elizabeth Galland
Grantee: Oliver Granger
Date: 29 May 1839
Section 24, Twnshp 66.6 640.00 acres⁵²
Purchase Price: \$1665.00⁵³
2. Grantor: Isaac and Elizabeth Galland
Grantee: Oliver Granger
Date: 29 May 1839

⁴⁷See Hancock County Deed Book G, p. 247 (30 April 1839). Isaac Galland had purchased the 47.17 acres from the administrators of Alexander White's estate on 2 May 1837, for \$2,000 (see Deed Book C, p. 388).

⁴⁸HC, 3:342. Sidney Rigdon with others signed a note for the property.

⁴⁹It was transferred to Joseph Smith as trustee-in-trust of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in October 1841. Some question was raised concerning George W. Robinson and the "Galland purchase" by the Nauvoo High Council in June 1840. (See "Nauvoo High Council Minutes," 20 June 1840, Church Archives, Historical Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah. Hereafter cited as Church Archives.)

⁵⁰HC, 3:345.

⁵¹HC, 3:378. Joseph Smith notes in May 1839 that "the land in Iowa far exceeds my expectations both as to richness of soil, and beauty of location, more so than any part of Missouri which I have seen" (see HC, 3:362).

⁵²Lee County Deed Book 1, pp. 507-08.

⁵³\$2.60 per acre.

NW¼ of Section 7, Twnshp 66.5	160.00 acres
E½ of the SE¼ of Section 7, Twnshp 66.5	80.00 acres
NW¼ of Section 8, Twnship 66.5	160.00 acres
SE½ of Section 8, Twnshp 66.5	160.00 acres
SW¼ of Section 8, Twnshp 66.5	160.00 acres
NW¼ of Section 16, Twnshp 66.5	160.00 acres
NE¼ of Section 16, Twnshp 66.5	160.00 acres
SW¼ of Section 16, Twnshp 66.5	160.00 acres
NE¼ of Section 17, Twnshp 66.5	160.00 acres
W½ of the NW¼ of Section 17, Twnshp 66.5	80.00 acres
Section 21, Twnshp 66.5	640.00 acres
	<hr/>
	2080.00 acres ⁵⁴

Purchase Price: \$5000.00⁵⁵

3. Grantor: Isaac and Elizabeth Galland
 Grantee: Vinson Knight
 Date: 26 June 1839

Section 17, Twnshp 65.6	640.00 acres
Section 13, Twnshp 65.6	640.00 acres
N½ of Section 3, Twnshp 66.5	320.00 acres
N½ of Section 4, Twnshp 66.5	320.00 acres
N½ of Section 5, Twnshp 66.5	320.00 acres
W½ of SE¼ of Section 5, Twnshp 66.5	80.00 acres
E½ of SW¼ of Section 5, Twnshp 66.5	80.00 acres
N½ of Section 6, Twnshp 66.5	320.00 acres
W½ of SE¼ of Section 6, Twnshp 66.5	80.00 acres
SW¼ of Section 6, Twnshp 66.5	160.00 acres
NE¼ of Section 7, Twnshp 66.5	160.00 acres
SW¼ of Section 7, Twnshp 66.5	160.00 acres
W½ of SE¼ of Section 7, Twnshp 66.5	80.00 acres
	<hr/>
	3360.00 acres ⁵⁶

Purchase Price: \$8836.00⁵⁷

4. Grantor: Isaac and Elizabeth Galland
 Grantee: Vinson Knight
 Date: 26 June 1839

E½ of NE¼ of Section 1, Twnshp 66.6	80.00 acres
E½ of SW¼ of Section 1, Twnshp 66.6	80.00 acres
E½ of NW¼ of Section 2, Twnshp 66.6	80.00 acres
E½ of NE¼ of Section 11, Twnshp 66.6	80.00 acres
E½ of SE¼ of Section 11, Twnshp 66.6	80.00 acres
E½ of NE¼ of Section 12, Twnshp 66.6	80.00 acres
E½ of SE¼ of Section 12, Twnshp 66.6	80.00 acres
E½ of NW¼ of Section 13, Twnshp 66.6	80.00 acres

⁵⁴Lee County Deed Book 1, pp. 508-09.

⁵⁵\$2.40 per acre.

⁵⁶Lee County Deed Book 2, pp. 3-4.

⁵⁷\$2.63 per acre.

E½ of SW¼ of Section 13, Twnshp 66.6	80.00 acres
E½ of NE¼ of Section 14, Twnshp 66.6	80.00 acres
E½ of NE¼ of Section 35, Twnshp 66.6	80.00 acres
W½ of SW¼ of Section 30, Twnshp 67.5	80.00 acres
SE¼ of Section 31, Twnshp 67.5	160.00 acres
W½ of SW¼ of Section 32, Twnshp 67.5	80.00 acres
SE¼ of Section 33, Twnshp 67.5	160.00 acres
	<hr/>
	1360.00 acres ⁵⁸

Purchase Price: \$5409.76⁵⁹

5. Grantor: Isaac and Elizabeth Galland
 Grantee: Vinson Knight
 Date: 26 June 1839

W½ of Fractional Section 19, Twnshp 66.4	97.78 acres
N½ of Section 27, Twnshp 66.5	320.00 acres
	<hr/>
	417.78 acres ⁶⁰

Purchase Price: \$1500.00⁶¹

6. Grantor: Isaac and Elizabeth Galland
 Grantee: Vinson Knight
 Date: 26 June 1839

N½ of Section 9, Twnshp 66.5	320.00 acres
SE¼ of Section 9, Twnshp 66.5	160.00 acres
SE¼ of Section 11, Twnshp 66.5	160.00 acres
N½ of Section 15, Twnshp 66.5	320.00 acres
SW¼ of Section 15, Twnshp 66.5	160.00 acres
S½ of NW¼ of Section 17, Twnshp 66.5	80.00 acres
E½ of NW¼ of Section 17, Twnshp 66.5	80.00 acres
Section 18, Twnshp 66.5	640.00 acres
Section 19, Twnshp 66.5	640.00 acres
Section 20, Twnshp 66.5	640.00 acres
Section 23, Twnshp 66.5	640.00 acres
Section 26, Twnshp 66.5	640.00 acres
Section 29, Twnshp 66.5	640.00 acres
SW¼ of Section 28, Twnshp 66.5	160.00 acres
N½ of Section 24, Twnshp 66.5	320.00 acres
SE¼ of Section 24, Twnshp 66.5	160.00 acres
N½ of Section 30, Twnshp 66.5	320.00 acres
E½ of Section 32, Twnshp 66.5	320.00 acres
NW¼ of Section 33, Twnshp 66.5	160.00 acres
	<hr/>
	6560.00 acres ⁶²

Purchase Price: \$18,451.50⁶³

⁵⁸Lee County Deed Book 2, pp. 4-5.

⁵⁹\$3.98 per acre.

⁶⁰Lee County Deed Book 2, pp. 5-6.

⁶¹\$3.59 per acre.

⁶²Lee County Deed Book 2, pp. 13-14.

⁶³\$2.81 per acre.

7. Grantor: Isaac and Elizabeth Galland
 Grantee: Vinson Knight
 Date: 26 June 1839

SE¼ of Section 34, Twnshp 67.5	160.00 acres
SW½ of Section 34, Twnshp 67.5	160.00 acres
N½ of Section 16, Twnshp 67.5	320.00 acres
N½ of Section 17, Twnshp 67.6	320.00 acres
SE¼ of Section 26, Twnshp 67.6	160.00 acres
Section 27, Twnshp 67.6	640.00 acres
NE¼ of Section 35, Twnshp 67.6	160.00 acres
Section 36, Twnshp 67.6	640.00 acres
Section 14, Twnshp 66.5	640.00 acres
Fractional SE¼ of Section 3, Twnshp 66.5	100.00 acres ⁶⁴
SW½ of Section 10, Twnshp 66.5	320.00 acres
	<hr/>
	3520.00 acres ⁶⁵

Purchase Price: \$8800.00⁶⁶

Recapitulation of land purchases

Acres	Price
640.00 acres	\$ 1,665.00
2,080.00 acres	5,000.00
3,360.00 acres	8,836.00
1,360.00 acres	5,409.76
417.78 acres	1,500.00
6,560.00 acres	18,451.50
3,520.00 acres	8,800.00
<hr/>	<hr/>
17,937.78 acres	\$49,662.26

As can be seen, the total acres do not exactly total 20,000, nor is the total purchase price \$50,000. Nevertheless, these figures, used by Joseph Smith and Isaac Galland, are fair estimates, although a little on the high side.⁶⁷ (See map of Land Purchased from Isaac Galland.)

The *History of the Church* records that on 2 July 1839, Joseph Smith and others “spent the forenoon of this day on the Iowa side of the river . . . to visit a purchase lately made by Bishop Knight as a location for a town, and advised that a town be built there, and called Zarahemla.”⁶⁸ In addition to Zarahemla, which

⁶⁴This is an approximate figure, within 25 acres.

⁶⁵Deed Book 2, pp. 15–16.

⁶⁶As no purchase price appears in the Deed Book, this is an approximate amount figuring \$2.50 per acre.

⁶⁷The preceding land transactions represent the purchases made in behalf of the Church and do not include many small parcels of land which Isaac Galland sold to individual Mormons.

⁶⁸HC, 3:382.



The Sac and Fox Indian Reservation

(The Half-Breed Tract)

Lee County, Iowa

By Lyndon W. Cook

would become during that period the largest Mormon community in Iowa after the March 1841 revelation (D&C 125), the settlements of Ambrosia, Nashville, and part of Montrose were located within the Galland purchase.⁶⁹

The following day, 3 July 1839, in Commerce, Joseph Smith baptized Isaac Galland and ordained him an elder in the Church two hours later.⁷⁰ Dr. Galland's pending departure for Ohio may have been the reason for such haste in his baptism and priesthood ordination. He had apparently anticipated a move to Ohio upon the sale of his Half-Breed lands. Ohio was his native state, and he had business to attend to there.

On Independence Day, one day after his baptism, Isaac Galland and his family boarded *The Brazil*, bound for St. Louis. He continued from there to Chillicothe, Ohio, where he arrived around 15 July 1839 and took up residence at Bentley's Hotel. While en route to Ohio he did some proselyting by selling a copy of the Book of Mormon to a Delaware senator.⁷¹

Upon his arrival at Chillicothe,⁷² Isaac Galland immediately corresponded with an acquaintance, Samuel B. Swasey, about his recent land transactions. On 22 July 1839, Dr. Galland wrote:

I feel greatly relieved in having got out of hearing of the *Half Breed Lands*. . . . I have disposed of my half breed lands, for 50 thousand dollars, that is to say \$2500, annually for 20 years, my home place, the same which I purchased of Capt White, I also sold for 18 thousand dollars, to be paid likewise \$900 annually for 20 years, the above sales were made to the people called *Mormons* who were last winter expelled from the state of Missouri. . . . The people have also bought out Hugh White and some others, and will probably continue to buy out the settlers of that neighborhood, until they again acquire a sufficient quantity of "honey comb" to induce the surrounding thieves to rob them again; at which time they will no doubt have to renounce their religion; or submit to a repetition of similar acts of violence, and outrage.⁷³

If Isaac Galland's letter to Samuel Swasey seems a bit cool toward the people of his newly found faith, it nevertheless contained a bit of prophecy concerning their future. Two days later, however, Dr. Galland assumed an affectionate tone toward his Mor-

⁶⁹See, for example, Stanley B. Kimball, "Nauvoo West: The Mormons of the Iowa Shore," *BYU Studies* 18 (Winter 1978), pp. 132-42.

⁷⁰HC, 3:393.

⁷¹See note 73.

⁷²Chillicothe, often erroneously cited as Isaac Galland's birthplace, was the site of the first state capital.

⁷³Isaac Galland to Samuel B. Swasey, 22 July 1839. Copy located at RLDS Auditorium Archives.

mon friends when he corresponded with Joseph Smith as a "brother in the faith":

After a journey of nine days we reached this city in health and safety. . . . I expect next week to set out for Akron and Kirtland and . . . I shall write immediately on my return . . . or perhaps from one of the above places. . . . Give my best wishes and assurance of my sincere affection to all the brethren and . . . let me hear every matter of importance which relates to the success or hindrance, prosperity or adversity of the Church.⁷⁴

It is doubtful that Isaac Galland received much cash for these land transactions. In January 1841, the First Presidency declared that Dr. Galland had sold the Church "large estates on very reasonable terms, and on long credit, so that we might have an opportunity of paying for them without being distressed, *and has since taken our lands in Missouri in payment for the whole amount.*"⁷⁵

From the preceding statement it appears that Isaac Galland did not receive cash payments for the properties he sold Mormons in Illinois or Iowa, but rather that he took title to Mormon lands in Missouri. Although the Mormons did possess title to sufficient lands in Caldwell County, Missouri, to effect a land exchange of this magnitude, land records of that county, except original land entries, were destroyed by fire in 1860, and, therefore, the preceding statement cannot be verified. Nevertheless, several documents located in the Newel K. Whitney Collection at Brigham Young University and at Church Archives in Salt Lake City substantiate Joseph Smith's contention that the exchange was made. The following receipt is in the Frederick G. Williams Papers at Church Archives. The fact that the receipt is in printed form suggests it was intended for extensive use.

Nauvoo, August 11th 1840

Received of F. G. Williams lands lying in the State of Missouri amounting to \$490 for which sum this receipt shall apply in the payment of lands in Lee County, Iowa Territory ~~or town lots in Nauvoo.~~

I. Galland

Isaac Galland moved a great deal in 1839–1840. Joseph Smith addressed a letter to Dr. Galland at Kirtland, Ohio, in September

⁷⁴Isaac Galland to Joseph Smith, 24 July 1839. Copy in Joseph Smith Collection, Church Archives.

⁷⁵HC, 4:270. Italics mine.

1839, relating the progress of the Church in Illinois and Iowa.⁷⁶ In 1840, while Isaac Galland was in Chillicothe, *Galland's Iowa Emigrant*, a guide to promote immigration to Iowa, was published by William Carey Jones. By August of 1840, Dr. Galland was again in Kirtland, where he purchased land owned by George W. Robinson's wife, who was residing in Illinois.⁷⁷

In a proclamation of the First Presidency, dated 15 January 1841, Isaac Galland was showered with praise and named a benefactor of the Mormon cause for his unselfishness in helping to locate the Saints. The statement noted that

Dr. Isaac Galland . . . is one of our benefactors, having under his control a large quantity of land. . . . [He] opened both his heart and his hands, and "when we were strangers, took us in," and bade us welcome to share with him in his abundance. . . . He is the honored instrument the Lord used to prepare a home for us, when we were driven from our inheritances. . . . Being a man of extensive information, great talents, and high literary fame, he devoted all his powers and influence to give us a standing. . . . After having thus exerted himself for our salvation and comfort . . . and after investigating the doctrines we proclaimed, he became convinced of the truth and of the necessity of obedience thereto, and, to the great joy and satisfaction of the Church, he yielded himself to the waters of baptism.⁷⁸

Four days later, 19 January 1841, Isaac Galland's name was included in a revelation given to Joseph Smith: "Let my servant Isaac Galland put stock into that [the Nauvoo] house, for I, the Lord, love him for the work he hath done, and will forgive all his sins."⁷⁹

To pay for properties which the Church had contracted to purchase in Commerce from Horace Hotchkiss, a system of land exchange had been devised by Church leaders. An epistle of the Twelve Apostles explained that land-owning brethren in the Eastern States who desired to remove to Nauvoo could transfer their properties to Horace Hotchkiss (through Church agents) and receive credit for property in Nauvoo and its vicinity.⁸⁰

A revelation to Joseph Smith, dated 19 January 1841, directed Isaac Galland to be appointed, ordained, and blessed "to go with

⁷⁶Letter cited in *HC*, 4:8–9.

⁷⁷Lake County, Ohio, Land Records. Copy at Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City.

⁷⁸*HC*, 4:270–71.

⁷⁹D&C 124:78. This revelation, published in the *Times and Seasons*, was later used to tease Isaac Galland, particularly during his second attempt as a candidate for the Iowa Legislature in 1851. On 3 February 1841, Dr. Galland was named a regent of the proposed University of Nauvoo. (See *HC*, 4:293.)

⁸⁰*HC*, 4:435–36.

my servant Hyrum [Smith], to accomplish the work that my servant Joseph shall point out to them.”⁸¹ These two men were specifically authorized by the Church

to visit the different branches of [the] Church in the eastern lands, to make exchanges of lands, to sell stock in the Nauvoo boarding House and obtain subscriptions and donations for building the “House of the Lord” in this place, and all such other business as they may deem necessary for the well being and prosperity of said Church.⁸²

Dr. Galland and Hyrum Smith arrived in Pennsylvania the last of March 1841,⁸³ but because of illness, Hyrum remained only a couple of weeks.⁸⁴ This unexpected change in plans left the entire responsibility of the land exchanges in Dr. Galland’s hands. While the Doctor’s exact movements in the East are not easily traceable, it appears that his activities as land agent for the Church centered primarily in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.⁸⁵ Evidence shows that he did acquire land titles from some Saints in these states in exchange for notes in Joseph Smith’s name.⁸⁶

Since Horace Hotchkiss had verbally agreed to accept land in the Atlantic States in lieu of cash payments, Joseph Smith was optimistic that his land agents could completely cancel the Hotchkiss debt (both principal and interest). Upon speaking with Mr. Hotchkiss, prior to Hyrum’s departure, the two agents found that he had changed his mind and that he would only accept land titles for the interest which was accruing. Upon receiving this information, Dr. Galland agreed to effect the transfer of sufficient eastern lands to Hotchkiss to meet the accruing interest (\$6000 by the summer of 1841).

It was not long, however, before the Prophet learned that Dr.

⁸¹D&C 124:79. Oliver Granger also acted as an agent in exchanging land in New York.

⁸²This instrument, granting power of attorney to Isaac Galland and Hyrum Smith, is signed by Joseph Smith and is dated 15 February 1841. Copy located in Joseph Smith Collection.

⁸³See Erastus Snow Sketchbook, typescript in the Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, p. 64. Isaac Galland corresponded with Joseph Smith upon arriving in Philadelphia: “Through the mercies of our Heavenly Father, we have been prospered on our journey thus far—We have enjoyed reasonable health on the way, and have succeeded in accomplishing a part of our business—Brother Hyrum has labored unremittingly in the word and doctrine on our whole route; he has been joyfully received by the brethren everywhere.” (Letter dated Philadelphia, 5 April 1841, *Times and Seasons* 1:399–400.)

⁸⁴Hyrum Smith returned to Nauvoo before 1 May 1841 (see *Times and Seasons* 1 [1 May 1841]: 403).

⁸⁵On 15 April 1841, Erastus Snow accompanied Isaac Galland to New Jersey where they transacted “some temporal business of the Church” (see Erastus Snow Sketchbook, p. 65).

⁸⁶See, for example, HC, 4:391–92, and 519.

Galland was planning to return to Ohio without making the interest payment. In a letter to Smith Tuttle, Mr. Hotchkiss' partner, Joseph wrote:

I am well assured that Dr. Galland did not look for any means whatever, to pay the interest at any rate, if not the principal; and, why he has not done according to my instructions, God only knows. I do not feel to charge him with having done wrong, until I can investigate the matter, and ascertain to a certainty where the fault lies. . . . He has a considerable amount of money in his hands, which was to have been paid to you, as we intended.⁸⁷

Where Dr. Galland received large amounts of money is not clear. The monies were probably proceeds from the sale of properties which he did not transfer to the Hotchkiss Syndicate, or they were contributions for the Nauvoo House and the Nauvoo Temple.

Isaac Galland left for Ohio the latter part of July 1841,⁸⁸ and after spending a few months settling his business affairs, he gathered his family and set out for Iowa. The Doctor, possibly to avoid an immediate confrontation with Joseph Smith, took up residence in Keokuk.⁸⁹

Upon learning of Isaac Galland's return from the East, the Prophet immediately wrote to him. While the letter is not extant, Isaac Galland's reply is. He states:

I received with great pleasure your favour of yesterday, and am happy to say to you, that I enjoy a moderate degree of health, and shall certainly give myself the pleasure in a few days of visiting my brethren and friends at Nauvoo. I am now awaiting the arrival of a Gentleman from St. Louis whom I have promised to meet at this place on very important business. . . . As soon as I have met him and made arrangements, I shall proceed to an immediate interview with you.⁹⁰

After one month had passed and Dr. Galland had not arrived in Nauvoo, Joseph Smith was led to write:

I am verry much in want of assistance at this particular time, and if you can make it convenient to call on me within two or three days I shall be much pleased, if not I wish you would send by the bearer all the funds you possibly can as my wants are verry great.⁹¹

⁸⁷HC, 4:431-32.

⁸⁸See William Smith to Joseph Smith, 5 August 1841, cited in HC, 4:391-92. Although William Smith thought that Isaac Galland would proceed immediately to Nauvoo, the Doctor stopped for a time in Ohio and then changed his destination to Iowa.

⁸⁹Isaac Galland arrived in Keokuk before 10 December 1841.

⁹⁰Isaac Galland to Joseph Smith, 11 December 1841. Copy in Joseph Smith Collection.

⁹¹Joseph Smith to Isaac Galland, 17 January 1842. Copy in Joseph Smith Collection.

Dr. Galland penned the following reply to the bottom half of the Prophet's note:

On the receipt of the above note I am at a loss to determine whether you intended it as an absolute dun or as an appeal to my liberality to advance fund for your relief, but let it be either case, I assure you sir, it is not in my power to advance at this time 5 dollars untill I obtain it from my creditors or in some other way. As to coming to Nauvoo, I have long desired to come there, and shall certainly do so as soon as I can so arrange the matters which I am now engaged in.⁹²

While this response prompted Joseph Smith to revoke immediately Isaac Galland's powers of attorney as Church agent,⁹³ he nevertheless continued to maintain communication with the Doctor. On 19 January 1842, the Prophet wrote in a conciliatory vain:

By your reply of the 18th instant to my note of the 17th, I am led to conclude that you received my communication in a manner altogether unintended by me, and that there may be no misunderstanding between us, and that you may be satisfied that I did not intend, and that I do not now intend anything, only upon principles of the strictest integrity and uprightness before God, and to do as I would be done unto. . . . It is an old and trite maxim, that short reckonings make long friends. With this view of the matter, I would request you to call as soon as you possibly can make it convenient and compare accounts.⁹⁴

Isaac Galland did show up in Nauvoo to compare accounts two weeks later, but this was not soon enough for Church leaders. Brigham Young and James Ivins were sent to retrieve Dr. Galland's power of attorney and other papers as agent for the Church on 27 January 1842.⁹⁵

Dr. Galland's interview with the Prophet in February 1842 may not have been his last, but evidence (or the lack of it) suggests that it marked the beginning of Isaac Galland's estrangement from Church fellowship. The unusual thing concerning Dr. Galland's agency for the Church is that no formal action was taken against him for any wrongdoing. Writers have nearly always labeled Isaac Galland as a "rascal" or a "swindler," only seeking to take advantage of the Mormons. If this is true, why did Joseph Smith not openly rebuke the Doctor for failing to make the interest payment to the Hotchkiss Syndicate or for dissipating large

⁹²Ibid.

⁹³HC, 4:495. This action was sanctioned by a conference of the Church on 18 January 1842 (see HC, 4:500), and a statement issued to that effect in *Times and Seasons* 3 (15 January 1842):667.

⁹⁴Joseph Smith to Isaac Galland, 19 January 1842, cited in HC, 4:499.

⁹⁵HC, 4:503 and 513.

amounts of Church funds? Does this absence of such action imply Isaac Galland's innocence or that he won his case? Certainly other factors, not clearly evident, came to bear in this matter.

While Isaac Galland was in Pennsylvania, he authored a seven-page pamphlet entitled *Doctor Galland's Reply to Various Falsehoods, Misstatements and Misrepresentations Concerning the Latter Day Saints, Reproachfully Called Mormons*. It is possible that Church funds were used to print this pamphlet and that Mormon leaders approved of the undertaking, since the pamphlet attempted to vindicate the Mormon cause. The first pages of the pamphlet aimed at disproving derogatory reports concerning Mormon activities. Isaac Galland wrote:

During my stay in this, and other eastern cities, which has been since some time in March last, I have been not a little surprised at the numerous vague, silly, false and malicious representations concerning the people commonly called "Mormons," which I have observed in the public press. And as I am now about to return to the West, I have regarded it as a duty which I owe to the cause of truth, to correct at least some of these misrepresentations previous to my leaving this city; as it is quite doubtful that a refutation of these calumnies would ever find its way through the western prints to the eastern public.⁹⁶

The remainder of the pamphlet addressed itself to Mormon tenets.

Another possibility is that Dr. Galland used monies in his possession to assist Oliver Granger in settling Kirtland debts.⁹⁷ Whatever the reason, research to date does not reveal that any Church leader ever reprimanded Dr. Galland for any impropriety either as a land agent or as a private member of the Church.⁹⁸

An oft-cited accusation is that Isaac Galland did not hold legal title to lands which he sold the Church in the Half-Breed Tract.

⁹⁶The pamphlet is dated Philadelphia, 13 July 1841. Copy located in Church Archives.

⁹⁷Joseph Smith wrote Oliver Granger on 4 May 1841: "I therefore respectfully recommend to you to give a statement of the whole affair to Dr. Galland who is yet in the East, and will be in Kirtland soon, and get him to take the matter into his hands and get the business straightened up." Granger died in Kirtland 25 August 1841. (See Joseph Smith to Oliver Granger, 4 May 1841, located at Illinois State Historical Library and published in *Journal of Illinois State Historical Society* 40 [March 1947]:85.

⁹⁸An undated document in the Joseph Smith Collection at Church Archives does indicate that Isaac Galland may have failed to settle all his accounts with Joseph Smith. "Account against Isaac Galland, for money had and received by him for his scrip payable in lands in Lee County, Iowa Territory or town lots in Nauvoo on demand by me and refused leaving my demand on him for money \$8778.00." I am indebted to James L. Kimball, Jr., of the LDS Historian's Office, for pointing this out to me.

Historians have insisted on quoting each other in saying that two hundred and fifty Mormon families were forced to leave Lee County, Iowa, in 1841 since no legal title had been conveyed. This writer is unable to verify this indictment. While there were never two hundred and fifty Mormon families residing in Lee County, Iowa, at any time during the 1840s, it is possible that some Mormons did cross the river to the Illinois side due to the Half-Breed-Tract litigation. But if, indeed, several Mormons did leave Iowa in 1841 or 1842, a more plausible explanation is that they left because of the disorganization of the Zarahemla Stake.⁹⁹ The 1841 partition of the Half-Breed Reservation naturally caused great concern for all holding interest in the tract. As a matter of fact, the issue was not settled until at least 1850. But the titles of Dr. Galland, who was generally recognized as the owner of much of the tract, "were considered as good as any body elses."¹⁰⁰

Isaac Galland, who remained in Lee County the remainder of his life, had constant association with Mormons but discontinued his life as an active Saint. One county history alleges that "he came to the conclusion that the prophet's claim to supernatural powers was a fraud . . . [and] therefore gave up the Mormons."¹⁰¹ The last known interaction between Isaac Galland and Joseph Smith is a letter dated 11 March 1843, in which Dr. Galland notified the Prophet from St. Louis that he was outraged at John C. Bennett's lectures and that Porter Rockwell had been arrested. The letter carries a feeling of friendship for Joseph Smith and a concern for the Mormon people.¹⁰²

During the late 1840s, while the Half-Breed Tract was still entangled in litigation, Dr. Galland spent much of his time championing the cause of the so-called "rightful" claimants. Much literature was published during the period, and many heated debates were held. Dr. Galland, who donned a white cane and gold-rimmed glasses, was an active participant, in both publishing and debating. He used his cane to emphasize his particular point of view by either pounding on something or by poking someone. He often violently jerked his glasses from his face to indicate disgust over specific items in question.¹⁰³

⁹⁹T. Edgar Lyon to Lyndon W. Cook, 19 May 1978.

¹⁰⁰"The Oldest Land Titles in Iowa," *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, 15:249.

¹⁰¹Roberts and Moorehead, *History of Lee County, Iowa*, p. 308.

¹⁰²Isaac Galland to Joseph Smith, 11 March 1843, in *Journal History*.

¹⁰³Of special note were the vicious exchange of pamphlets between Dr. Galland and David W. Kilbourne. Both accused the other of fraud in the Half-Breed Reservation.

After again running unsuccessfully for the Iowa State Legislature on the Possum ticket in 1851, Isaac Galland left his comfortable residence in Keokuk to try his luck in California. He, his wife, and others left for the West in April 1853 and arrived in Sacramento in September. One source notes that the party stopped in Salt Lake City where they were kindly entertained by Brigham Young.¹⁰⁴ Isaac Galland's niece records that during their stay in California, the Doctor and his wife resided in Petaluma.¹⁰⁵

In 1856, after learning that a suit against the New York Land Company had netted him \$11,000, Isaac Galland returned home posthaste. The last two years of his life were spent among friends in Ft. Madison, Iowa.

The life of the active Dr. Isaac Galland came to an end Monday, 27 September 1858, at the age of 67. The following day a funeral discourse was preached over his remains at the Episcopal Church in Ft. Madison by the Reverend Adderly, and "his remains, followed by a large concourse of relatives and friends, were carried and deposited" in the city cemetery.¹⁰⁶

While some questions regarding Isaac Galland's Mormon-related activities remain unanswered, research confirms that Dr. Isaac Galland was clearly a Mormon benefactor. His correspondence with political leaders and his extensive landholdings combined in assisting the Saints to gather again. Joseph Smith declared that the distinguished Dr. Galland was the "instrument of the Lord" in providing a place of refuge for the homeless, persecuted Saints.¹⁰⁷ Although his primary motivation for aiding the Saints appears to have been financial gain, it is quite possible that without Isaac Galland there might never have been a Nauvoo.

¹⁰⁴T. Edgar Lyon to Lyndon W. Cook, 22 June 1978.

¹⁰⁵Virginia Wilcox Ivins, *Pen Pictures of Early Western Days* (n.p., 1908).

¹⁰⁶This from Isaac Galland's obituary in *The Plain Dealer* (Ft. Madison, Iowa), 1 October 1858.

¹⁰⁷HC, 4:270.